The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SAYS COMMONS' PLAN IS NOT SCIENTIFIC

Cincinnati, Oct. 9.—The press bureau of the American Economic league makes this comment on the Manly and the Commons' reports to the commission on industrial relations:

"Walsh finds industrial unrest to be due to (1) unjust distribution of wealth and income; (2) unemployment and denial of opportunity to earn a living; (3) denial of justice in the creation, in the adjudication and in the administration of law; (4) denial of right and opportunity to form effective organizations.

"Commons finds the cause to be the breakdown in the administration of labor laws.

"It is clear that Walsh has made a deeper investigation than Prof Commons into the cause of unrest. One need not be a trained economist to note the absurdity of Commons' explanation. There must have been industrial unrest before there were any labor laws, probably long before. It was to allay such unrest that these laws have been enacted. Then how can industrial unrest be correctly attributed to a cause that was not in existence when it first arose?

"Illogical and unscientific is Prof Commons in suggesting a remedy. He would put administration of laws regarding industrial matters in the hands of a commission. This commission is to be a sort of benevolent despot, and under it workers will be about in the same position as convicts in a penitentiary managed by a humane, liberal, just and enlightened warden. How many workers would be contented under such conditions?"

A LIVING WAGE DEMANDED.

Racine, Wis., Oct. 9.—Discussing dividends of the Pullman company, the Racine Call says:

"It is a noteworthy fact that the mammoth earnings of the Pullman company have been made by the capitalization of its employes' ability to secure gratuities from its customers in sufficient amount to make their salary a mere matter of formality.

"Pullman employes live on their tips, not on what the Pullman company pays them, for the amount is so insignificant as to render that feat impossible.

"In addition to paying the Pullman company for the use of its cars the traveling public through the tipping system is made to contribute a very large proportion of its payroll.

"It is becoming evident of late that the people are getting tired of such a system and will either demand that the charge for Pullman accommodations be reduced so as to allow for a tip to the porter or that the tip be eliminated and the porter paid a wage on which he can live. The system as it stands is un-American and vicious and the light thrown on it by the report of the industrial relations commission should have a beneficial effect in securing legislation for the curbing of those evils which are now peculiar to this company alone."

ADOPT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Camden, N. J., Oct. 9.—The Victor Talking Machine company is awake to the general demand for eight hours and has sustained the position of organized labor that the shorter workday is feasible by announcing that the old 54-hour schedule will be replaced by 44½ hours without wage reductions.

The company states that "after a thorough investigation into the conditions in our manufacturing departments, the directors have concluded it was the right thing to do and the right time to do it."

About 7,500 employes are affected.

WANTS ARMOR FOR WORKERS.

Media, Pa., Oct. 9.—Judge Broomall believes that foundry companies should provide their employes with suits of armor when there is danger from flying pieces of iron. The court expressed this opinion in a damage suit brought by Philip McCarthy against the Federal Steel Foundry company. Plaintiff was employed in breaking scrap iron at the foundry and was injured by a flying piece of metal.

UNIONISTS TO CONTEST RULING.

Cincinnati, Oct. 9.—Officers of the state federation of labor have perfected plans to contest the ruling of State Insurance Commissioner Taggart which permits private insurance companies to write workmen's compensation in competition with the state. The unionists have retained Judge George B. Okey, who represented them in the first suit on the constitutionality of the workmen's compensation law, and ex-State Attorney General Hogan.

GIRLS DEMAND INCREASES.

New York, Oct. 9.—Nearly 10,000 girls employed in over 600 dressmaking shops in this city are demanding wage increases, shorter hours and better shop conditions. Most of the work is done under sweatshop conditions by workers who receive less than $1 a day during the six months of employment. The Ladies' Garment Workers' union controls this industry.

RESUMES PUBLICATION.

Washington, Oct. 9.—American Federation of Labor headquarters has received information from the international federation of trade unions that the International News Letter resumed publication on August 1. It is requested that labor editors in the United States and Canada send copies of their official journals to the International News Letter, Regulliersgracht 80, Amsterdam, Holland.

OPPOSE CONVICT-MADE BROOMS.

Joliet, Ill., Oct. 9.—Trade unionists called on Warden Zimmer of the state penitentiary to cease the manufacture of brooms at that place. The official was shown that of the 400 persons working at this industry in Illinois, one-half are employed in state institutions of various kinds. Warden Zimmer promised to take the matter up with Gov. Dunne.

OPPOSE NEW CONSTITUTION.

New York, Oct. 9.—School teachers in this city have announced their opposition to the new state constitution. It is charged that under the new constitution teachers will be less secure in their positions.

TRAINMEN WANT INCREASES.

Chicago, Oct. 9.—Officers of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen have forwarded petitions to general managers of all railroads entering Chicago for an increase of 5 cents an hour for their members.

ROEBLING A COMPANY TOWN

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 9.—Labor and living conditions in Roebling, near here, has been investigated by a special committee appointed by the Central Labor union, which reports that that place is a "company" town in all the term implies.

"Serfdom resurrected and systematized to fit modern capitalistic convenience," is the verdict on this town, owned and controlled by the Roebling company, and populated by men, women and children employed in the wire and steel mills. About 3,000 people are in Roebling, which consists, says the report, of Hungarians, Roumanians, Swedes and about 70 Americans.

The company owns all the houses, and rents, which are based on city standards, are taken from the workers' envelopes. It is stated that "according to reliable figures, they prove that after the town of Roebling has existed 15 years, there will be enough rents collected from the workmen of Roebling to pay for the cost of the whole town, including the mill buildings."

Twenty cents an hour is the highest price paid day workers, and the lowest is 17 cents. The workers employed in what is known as the "cleaning house," are the lowest paid, and their work is dirty, dangerous and unhealthy, on account of powerful acids used. The men who work in this department, in order to get a decent living wage and support their families as become men, work as many as 94 hours per week.

The men say that the treatment accorded them by the foremen, of which there are too many, is unbearable. Workers are compelled to patronize the company stores, and all bills, after one week, are deducted from the pay envelope. There are fine stores on the edge of the town, "but poorly patronized by the workers, because of fear."

There are no amusements of any kind, the workers just lie around a bit, go to bed when they are not working and wait for the next day to roll around.

The committee recommends that it be enlarged and the investigation be continued for the purpose of "remedying the existing deplorable conditions of the workmen of Roebling and vicinity."

EFFECTS OF UNDERPAID LABOR.

Providence, R. I., Oct. 9.—At a mass meeting of strikers employed by the Brown & Sharpe company, Rev. F. H. Decker, of Church House, declared that the company does not pay a living wage to many of its employes and that the business should be so organized as to make it possible to do so.

"It is from the spiritual and moral point of view that I consider the effects of underpaid labor," said the clergyman. "I tell you, most of the wives of laboring men have a hell on earth in their attempts to make ends meet, when they have to cover a yard of out-go with a half-yard of income. I hope none will say that such wives are extravagant because they spend a dime once in a while at a picture show, or because, on occasion, they are extravagant in purchasing a better article of clothing or furniture than they can afford. Such talk makes my soul sick, especially when it comes from those who spend more on a dinner than they pay for a week's work."

UNIONISTS ANSWER ATTACK.

Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 9.—President Geddes, of the Kelly Motor Truck company, whose employes are on strike for better conditions, is peeved at the presence of international officers, who are assisting the strikers. Mr. Geddes denounced "outside leaders" and is answered as follows:

"Replying to Mr. Geddes' objections to outside leaders, it is only necessary to cite the fact that the city of Springfield secured the services of a city manager who was not a resident of the city. That employers and directors of corporations do not hesitate to secure the services of superintendents and general managers who come from other cities. That manufacturers follow the advice of the officers and paid representatives of the National Manufacturers' association who occupy positions in a similar capacity to the officers of international unions."

METAL MINERS STRIKE.

Clifton, Ariz., Oct. 9.—About 5,000 miners in this copper district are on strike for an eight-hour day, recognition of the union and a scale based on $3.25 per day when copper is 14 cents a pound, this rate to vary according to market quotations on copper. The strikers have joined the Western Federation of Miners. They charge their employers with discriminating against unionists.

CHILD LABOR DIES HARD.

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 9.—Despite stringent statutes gainst child labor and long hours for women, figures issued by the industrial commission show that in the sixteen months prior to January 1, this year, 13 per cent of the orders issued to Ohio employers demanded the cessation of child labor and long hours for women, and 157 employers were convicted of violating these laws.

EMPLOYER SUPPORTS STRIKERS.

Cleveland, Oct. 9.—A. L. Garford, president of the Automatic Machine company, is quoted as supporting the cause of workers who struck at this plant. At a conference with unionists regarding the eight-hour day this official said: "The men are perfectly right in wanting a share of the profits we are making from increased war business."

ARE NOW DISCUSSING UNIONISM.

Denver, Oct. 9.—Street car men in this city are not organized. They did not believe it was necessary, as the general manager paid good wages. Now the general manager is discharged and the workers are discussing organization, as they fear wages will be reduced.

STRIKE IN NASHUA MILL.

Nashua, N. H., Oct. 9.—Employes of the dye department of the Nashua Manufacturing company are on strike to enforce a demand for $10 a week instead of $8.50. They also ask for an hour at noon for lunch. These workers are unorganized.

HARTFORD MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 9.—Because the management refused to consider their eight-hour demands, several hundred machinists employed by the Pratt & Whitney company walked out.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Oct. 9.—Job printing proprietors of this city have signed an agreement with the Typographical union increasing wages $2 a week, beginning the first of this month.

ROCKEFELLER ORGANIZES AND FINANCES HIS OWN "LABOR UNION"

Members "Permitted" to Hold Meetings and Present Grievances

Pueblo, Colo., Oct. 9.—The many tragedies that have been witnessed in this state during the workers' battle for economic justice are now supplanted by comedy—a "Rockefeller union"—officered by men approved by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, and financed by this same concern.

With due solemnity the scheme was launched in this city last week, and is the culmination of a spectacular visit through southern Colorado by John D. Rockefeller, jr., and his publicity agent, Mackenzie King, accompanied by newspaper men and photographers.

Plans for the new "union" were perfected at a meeting of officers of the company "and 50 representatives of the workers." Of course, the "union" was unanimously indorsed and mine superintendents were given copies of the plan to submit same to miners, who have had the scheme explained to them by mine officials, after which it was indorsed by a "referendum" vote.

Mr. Rockefeller and his friends hail the new movement as the final solution of differences between capital and labor. The United Mine Workers' union is not recognized, but it is hinted, indirectly, that "conditions may change." This clever appeal of the mine operators to be left alone in their effort to supplant a trade union will not be successful.

The plan provides that every 150 miners shall be entitled to a representative, elected by the miners. An elaborate program of presenting grievances is included, as is committees to increase efficiency and social welfare work.

At the election for representatives, each miner "shall be permitted" to freely discuss his grievance. Especial attention is called to this astounding concession on the part of Mr. Rockefeller and his associates, who have driven from the southern Colorado coal fields every worker who protested against being forced to patronize company stores and who objected to being robbed by company check weighmen.

The company promises to obey all federal and state laws, which is another concession, as the Colorado Fuel and Iron company's disregard for these statutes caused the recent strike of miners.

Employes "are given the right" to hold meetings, and "shall have the right" to employ their own checkweighmen. The right to hire and discharge remains with the company, and it is further provided that:

"There shall be no discrimination by the company or by any of its employes on account of membership or nonmembership in any society, fraternity, or union."

The effect of this rule on organized labor can be best appreciated when it is recalled that only recently a special committee, representing the United Mine Workers of America, issued a public statement to John D. Rockefeller, jr., containing this challenge:

"Since the strike was called off last December this company (Colorado Fuel and Iron) has steadfastly refused to re-employ men who were still affiliated with the union, and we defy Mr. Rockefeller to produce from his entire working force in southern Colorado a dozen men who are members of the union."

Wages and working conditions are to remain the same until January 1, 1918, but if increases are made in competitive districts prior to that time a joint meeting of company officials and representatives of the men shall be called to make effective "proportionate increases" in the properties of Colorado Fuel and Iron. This is another way of saying that wages will remain the same until the date specified unless the miners' union enforces betterments elsewhere. Then it will be necessary to meet these betterments that the union gains no foothold in this section.

In other words, the backers of the "Rockefeller union" announce that working conditions will be guided by the Mine Workers' union. This declaration is an acknowledgement that the union is still a force to be reckoned with; that it creates the standard for working conditions, and that there is constant danger that employes may become dissatisfied with the methods of hand-picked representatives intended to supplant the right of men to elect their own officials and checkweighmen without supervision by mine superintendents.

The entire cost of the plan is to be borne by the company.

The "Rockefeller union" is another link in the historic chain of trade union opposition that grows weaker and weaker when confronted by determined agitation and organization by the workers. This opposition was first shown when workers were jailed as conspirators if they dared to organize bona fide unions. Later, the "open shop" plan was favored in the hope that trade unionism would be checked. This, likewise, proved ineffective and anti-unionists will now probably accept the Rockefeller brand of "unionism," which means that an employer will "permit" collective bargaining with a union he finances and will "permit" presentation of grievances through representatives satisfactory to him.

This plan, together with increased welfare work and clubhouses will, it is expected, keep workers from legitimate trade unions, where they are taught to own themselves and assert their manhood and independence.

WILL OPERATORS' PLAN FAIL?

Denver, Oct. 9.—Is the Colorado Fuel and Iron company convinced that its plan to railroad striking miners to jail will fail?

Does the company hope to strengthen the Rockefeller "union" by abandoning its effort to prosecute members of the United Mine Workers' union?

Hundreds of unionists in southern Colorado are now under indictment, awaiting trial on various charges. President Welborn is quoted in the press as declaring that his company "will welcome an amnesty" regarding these alleged offenses. Mr. Welborn and his associates, it is stated, have advised the state authorities that Colorado Fuel and Iron would not be adverse to the dismissal of all cases against former strikers, "except where evidence of guilt was exceptionally strong."

While unionists look upon this statement as significant they are determined to continue their fight until the last union miner is accorded jusice. They are determined not to permit the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, or its representatives in high places, to decide what evidence is "especially strong." The workers declare they will shield no lawbreaker, but every man must be given a fair trial, instead of the kind accorded John R. Lawson.

UNIONISTS TO HAVE A DAILY.

Wheeling, W. Va., Oct. 9.—Publishers of the Wheeling Majority, trade union paper of this city, contemplate issuing a daily in the near future.

Editor Hilton states: "It will be nonpartisan and nonsectarian, but it will be trade union all the way. We are going to make a complete newspaper of it and cover the whole field of general news. We have not definitely set the date as yet, but it will be launched some time this fall."

TO HOLD NEARING MEETING.

Philadelphia, Oct. 9.—The Central Labor union has appointed a committee to arrange for a mass meeting on behalf of Prof. Nearing, who was dismissed last June by the University of Pennsylvania trustees. The committee intends to invite President Gompers and Frank P. Walsh, ex-chairman of the commission on industrial relations.

UNIONISM THE KEY.

Denver, Oct. 9.—"Unionism, living up to its ideal, is the key to the so-called labor question, and, therefore, constantly increasing organization should be the aim of union men," declared James M. Brewster in an address before the state federation of labor convention. The speaker was recently dismissed from the law faculty of the Colorado state university because of his avowed sympathy for the striking coal miners.

GRADUATE STUDENTS FAVOR PROF. NEARING

Philadelphia, Oct. 9.—Nearly 100 graduate students of the University of Pennsylvania, many of them instructors at this institution, have signed resolutions of protest against the dismissal of Prof. Nearing, last June.

It is declared that "freedom of speech of our instructors is of first importance," and attention is called to the necessity for freedom for research and investigation of every subject, "no matter how new or how contrary to current preconceptions it may be."

The resolutions are as follows:

"We, the undersigned graduate students of the University of Pennsylvania, wish to enter our emphatic protest against any actions of the board of trustees, and of the small group in control of the General Alumni society, which infringe upon the freedom of thought and expression of our instructors. We desire to call attention to the fact that there are in the university more than 500 graduate students, mature men and women, who are here to do serious study and investigation.

"As graduate students, expecting to spend our lives in the pursuit of study and research along the lines in which we are now specializing, we regard the freedom of speech of our instructors as of first importance. As a basis for future research, it is essential that we be familiarized with every important school of thought, no matter how new or how contrary to current preconceptions it may be. Professors, therefore, must be wholly free, after careful study and analysis, to tell the truth as they themselves see it.

"Recent events have lent color to a growing suspicion which has gained the widest currency, especially in academic circles, during the last few months, that only in those fields of learning which are removed from the consideration of present-day social and industrial conditions could instructors in the University of Pennsylvania express their honest opinions without fear of consequences, while in the economic, social and political sciences, instructors could, with safety, promulgate only the doctrines pleasing to one class.

"The currency of such an idea lessens for us as students the value of our associations with the University of Pennsylvania and greatly impairs a degree from this institution."

SHEET METAL WORKERS STRIKE

Wilmington, Del., Oct. 9.—Over 700 sheet metal workers employed at the du Pont shops and at the Brandywine shops, this city, are on strike for wage increases and an eight-hour day.

JUDGE SUPPORTS UNIONISTS.

New York, Oct. 9.—Opposition to the New York state constitution, which will be voted on next month, is recorded by former Chief Judge Edgar M. Cullen of the court of errors and appeals, the highest court in this state. Judge Cullen supports the trade union movement in its opposition to some sections of the new constitution and shows that in the present constitution the safety of the civilian population is protected, as it is in the consitution of the United States, by a provision in the bill of rights that "no military tribunal shall exercise jurisdiction over a civilian unless engaged in military or naval service while the regularly constituted state courts are open to administer justice."

This clause is eliminated from the new constitution, which, however, carefully continues all the old powers and provisions for the declaration of martial law in case of riots or disorders which the civil authorities are deemed powerless to curb.

Judge Cullen shows that under the proposed constitution it would not be sufficient excuse for an accused man to show that he had been absent from the scene of rioting if the military powers merely proved that he had "aided and abetted those guilty of violence."

"Under these rules of law," says Judge Cullen, "in case of a riot in Buffalo, a man may be taken from Brooklyn or New York before a military commission on the charge that he has aided the rioters and shot if the commission sees fit to order it."

The claim that the new constitution will provide greater efficiency in the conduct of state affairs is answered by Judge Cullen with the claim that "efficiency may be bought at too great a price, and such is the case when it is purchased at the expense of civil liberty."

ON THE KILLING OF MITCHELL.

Denver, Oct. 9.—Discussing the assassination of Editor Mitchell, of the Walsenberg (Colo.) Independent, the Labor Bulletin of this city says:

"Perhaps it is well that John D. Rockefeller was in Colorado when the Jeff Farr gang pulled off its latest stunt in putting Editor Mitchell out of the way in Walsenberg last Sunday night. The 'king of Huerfano' has been one of the most valiant aids of the Colorado Fuel and Iron in carrying out the Rockefeller policy in southern Colorado. Maybe Jeff wanted to show the big boss how easily he could turn a trick."

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 9.—The state federation of labor has opened its fight against members of the legislature who voted to continue the present convict labor lease system. The unionists will be aided by many organizations and individuals who are opposed to this relic of a barbaric age.

A. F. of L. Officials Treat Rockefeller's "Union" Lightly

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS.

So Mr. Rockefeller has formed a union—a union of his employes of his Colorado Fuel and Iron company—and perhaps imagines that he has solved the problem of just relations between himself and his employes. But with all his wealth and all his brains, and the brains that he could buy and suborn, he has missed his mark. Imagine an organization of miners formed by the richest man in the world, who employs its members. What influence can such a pseudo union have to insist upon the remedying of a grievous wrong or the attainment of a real right? And what about the representatives of the men "sitting around the table" with Mr. Rockefeller and his angelic representatives out in Colorado, should the miners' spokesman have the temerity of insistence in the rightful demands of the miners?

The miners employed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is the head, have been whipped by means of atrocious brutality and hunger into submission, back to the mines. And these miners have been formed into a union by Mr. Rockefeller's benevolent altruism. But he has organized them, and for that, at any rate, labor is truly grateful, for when men come together to discuss, even in the most cursory way, their rights and their interests and welfare, there is afforded the splendid field for development and opportunity.

After what Mr. Rockefeller has done, that is, to organize a "union" of miners in Colorado, he should carry his benevolent and practical purpose into full execution in all his varied industries and not wait until another massacre, the like of which occurred at Ludlow, should break out at one of his other industrial institutions. Do not stop at Colorado, Organizer Rockefeller!

By SECRETARY MORRISON.

Mr. Rockefeller's plan is significant. In his alleged "collective bargaining" plan he yields more than any other employer hostile to the trade union movement.

He says he acknowledges the principle of collective bargaining—and to enforce his conception of this theory creates a union and evolves a comprehensive plan that, the press states, is financed by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. We are told these workers will be "permitted" to present their grievances.

Organized workers present their grievances through the power of their economic organization. They enforce their right to have a voice in the disposal of their labor power.

Mr. Rockefeller's plan provides that workers will be "permitted" to present grievances. If one dissects this theory he sees that the power that "permits" can also withdraw any time it elects.

Herein is the fundamental difference between the Rockefeller plan and that of trade unions. One develops independence, the other relies on the graciousness and good will of the employer. There can be no compromise between the two theories, for if workingmen are to be really free their right to regulate their own lives must be acknowledged.

Mr. Rockefeller's welfare plan contains nothing new—it is only a repetition of efforts made by employers to keep their workmen satisfied.

I am sure that time will demonstrate that the plan prepared by Rockefeller for his employes in Colorado will prove a full cousin to the other schemes of like character inaugurated for the sole purpose of preventing organization of employes that will enable them to secure improved conditions.

TEACHERS AGAIN ATTACKED

Chicago, Oct. 9.—The Chicago board of education, which was recently ordered to refrain from enforcing its anti-union rule against members of the Teachers' federation, has passed another resolution which, it is hoped, will overcome Judge O'Conner's objection to their trade union antagonism. Members of the board believe that with the change they will have an easer time in their fight to gain a dissolution of the injunction in a higher court.

Judge O'Connor held that the first resolution passed by the board included membership in the National Education association, the Illinois State Teachers' association and the pension fund.

To remove this objection, the board is forced to take a positive stand, and declare, by the following change, that the fight is solely a denial of the right of teachers to join a trade union:

"Membership by teachers in labor unions or in organizations of teachers affiliated with a trade union or a federation or association of trade unions is inimical to proper discipline, prejudicial to the efficiency of the teaching force, and detrimentad to the welfare of the public school system; therefore such membership or affiliation is hereby prohibited, as well as teachers' organizations which have officers, business agents, or other representatives who are not members of the teaching force."

JOHN D. WAS NOT VISITED.

Denver, Oct. 9.—It is an open secret that John D. Rockefeller, jr., expected to be visited by delegations of unionists while on his visit to this state. Newspapers carefully noted every move of this young man and trained publicity agents gave wide circulation to his announced plans, which would have a fine background if the story could be told how he received committees representing organized workers and how they listened with bated breath to the visitor's theory of "a new democracy of labor."

But no unionists appeared. In fact, these workers exhibited an aggravated amount of independence and seemed to yet remember Ludlow and the brutal anti-union policy of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, which has not been repudiated by Mr. Rockefeller. The organized workers took the position that if he was in Colorado to find the facts it was up to him to ask a conference. This position was practically the same as that of the state federation of labor convention, which almost unanimously rejected a resolution to invite him to address that body.

WAGES IN SHOE INDUSTRY.

Washington, Oct. 9.—In a report on wages and hours in the manufacture of boots and shoes, the United States bureau of labor statistics shows that the average full-time weekly earnings of employes in 1914 were the same as in 1913, 8 per cent higher than in 1912, 6 per cent higher than in 1911, and 9 per cent higher than in 1910. The average full-time hours of labor per week in 1914 were 1 per cent lower than in 1913, 2 per cent lower than in 1912, and 3 per cent lower than in 1911 and 1910. The average full-time working hours in the industry were about 55 per week.

The report is based on figures secured from 91 establishments in various sections of the United States employing over 53,000, or more than 25 per cent of the wage earners in the entire industry.

WHY ACCIDENTS HAPPEN.

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 9.—The state department of inspection of workshops, factories and public buildings reports that of 215 industrial accidents in six months of last year that were chargeable to belting and pulleys, in one out of every seven establishments the machinery was so poorly guarded that it was necessary to issue an order to provide guards.

ACCEPT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Springfield, Mass., Oct. 9.—Reduction of working hours from 54 to 48 per week has been made, it is stated, by the United States Envelope company, Powers Paper company and the Birnie Paper company, thereby averting strikes. Subsidiary plants of these concerns, located in nearby cities, will be affected by the new rule, which provides for the old wage rates.

EIGHT HOURS IS GENERAL.

Washington, Oct. 9.—A. F. of L. Organizer Roach writes to Secretary Frank Morrison from Bridgeport, Conn., that all working agreements entered into in which A. F. of L. organizers have had anything to do with so far have been on a basis of forty-eight hours a week, nine hours for the first four days, eight hours for Friday and four hours for Saturday.

HOW UNIONISM GROWS.

Detroit, Oct. 9.—A list of agreements written by the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America indicates the growth of trade unionism. The records of the various conventions show that in 1901 there were 22 written agreements; in 1903, 35; in 1905, 66; in 1907, 114; in 1909, 125; in 1911, 152; in 1913, 186, and in 1915, 204.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Troy, N. Y., Oct. 9.—Secretary Harry Morrison, of the Laundry Workers' International union reports that agreements calling for an eight-hour day have been signed in Anaconda and Deer Lodge, Montana, and a minimum wage of $10 per week has been established in these cities.

PRINTERS FORM STATE UNION.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 9.—Printers of this state have formed the Virginia State Typographical association. C. P. Harwood of this city was elected president and W. E. Doherty of Norfolk, secretary-treasurer.

GRANTED EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Springfield, Mass., Oct. 9.—The E. S. Stacy Machine company has accepted the eight-hour day. Wage rates have been readjusted that the present scale may be continued.

TO BUILD LABOR TEMPLE.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 9.—Trade unionists report progress in their labor temple project. The charter for the labor temple corporation has been granted and considerable stock has been sold.

ELECTRIC EMPLOYES STRIKE.

Schenectady, N. Y., Oct. 9.—Several thousand men and women employes of the General Electric company are on strike for a shorter work day.

CANADIAN UNIONISTS WATCHING LABOR LAW

Toronto, Ontario, Oct. 9.—Canadian trade unionists are showing no inclination to accept certain amendments to the industrial disputes act, which was intended to further conciliation and arbitration between employer and employe. The act now applies to public utilities and mining and also where both sides accept its provisions.

Under the act the government, together with employer and employe, appoint representatives on a board that investigates disputes and it is unlawful to enforce a strike or lockout pending this investigation.

The government now proposes to extend the act to include other industries and the plan is opposed as follows by the Industrial Banner of this city:

"The feeling is generally prevalent among the workers in callings outside of public utility enterprises that they have no desire or inclination to be covered by the industrial disputes act, and many of them believe it would be to their decided disadvantage.

"Several big organizations have a system of settling their disputes by a system of impartial arbitration, as, for instance, the boot and shoe workers and the Typographical union. To bring such organizations under the act would be neither necessary or advantageous, and would undoubtedly be warmly resented upon their part.

"Under these circumstances organized labor must be ready to assume a watchful attitude, determined to scrutinize and weigh every change that it is proposed to make in the present law, for there are so many bad clauses in it that the minister of labor has apparently no intention of improving, that the workers have a perfect right to be somewhat doubtful of any proposed tinkering with it.

"It is worthy of note that up to the present time no employer has ever been called upon to suffer for any act committed upon his part, either for wantonly aggressive acts or the violation of any contract with employes, but in many cases the law has been invoked, unjustly, we believe, to penalize the workers, fully bearing out the predictions that were made by the Industrial Banner when the measure first became law.

"Honestly speaking, dissatisfaction with the present industrial disputes act has been steadily growing upon the part of trades unionists, who have had to suffer because of its many defects, it apparently being a net that is so elastic that it allows the employer who really does offend to escape while it enmeshes the luckless workers whom it holds secure."

DISCUSS CONCILIATION ACT.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 9.—By a vote of 97 to 35 the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada refused to ask the Dominion government to repeal the industrial disputes act, which provides for conciliation and arbitration in public utility disputes. Without exception, coal miner delegates were opposed to the bill on the ground that no award has been satisfactory to them. Vancouver street car men's delegates were instructed to oppose the bill. Other delegates recorded their opposition to the act, but the majority did not favor drastic action, and in view of pending amendments to the bill, the convention adopted the following resolution:

"That the matter of the industrial disputes act be referred to the executive council of the congress with instructions to secure the necessary interpretations from competent counsel and that when the new act comes before the house, the executive council authorized to bring to Ottawa such officers as it deems necessary to assist in combatting the objectionable and supporting favorable amendments."

STRIKE DEPUTIES WANT PAY.

Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 9.—The state supreme court is called upon to decide whether Muscatine shall pay $6,000 for the services of the numerous Chicago strike deputies imported into that city during the strike of button workers several years ago. The Muscatine board of supervisors was enjoined from paying the bill and the decision is appealed to the supreme court. Opponents of the bill declare that because the strike deputies were not residents of the state that they could not act as officers and that their bill, therefore, is illegal.

MERIDEN WORKERS STRIKE.

Meriden, Conn., Oct. 9.—Three thousand men and women employed by the International Silver company are on strike to enforce a demand for a forty-eight-hour work week and an advance in wages sufficient to meet the reduced hours. A. F. of L. organizers are assisting the strikers.

LOWELL STRIKE ENDS.

Lowell, Mass., Oct. 9.—The strike at the United States Cartridge company, which began September 10, was ended by a vote of the interested workers. Under the agreement all questions of wages and overtime will be referred to the state board of arbitration. Changes in pay resulting from the board's recommendation will be effective from September 25.

TO UNITE CITY FIREMEN.

Denver, Oct. 9.—Organized city firemen in this state are urging their fellow workers to unite and become affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. These firemen show that the two-platoon system and other betterments are possible if they join hands with the trade union movement.

POLISHERS RAISE WAGES.

La Porte, Ind., Oct. 9.—The metal polishers won a five-days' strike in one of the large machine shops in this city and secured a wage increase from $2.50 to $4 a day.

ORGANIZE CANDY WORKERS.

Boston, Oct. 9.—The Bakery and Confectionery Workers' union is organizing candy workers who have failed to induce many of their employers to pay the minimum wage agreed to by the state commission.

GAINS IN ROCKFORD.

Rockford, Ill., Oct. 9.—Stage employes and machine operators in this city have secured a reduction in working hours from nine to eight per day and a six-day week.

ORGANIZING BARBERS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 9.—Organizer Felder of the Journeymen Barbers' International union is assisting local unionists of this craft to more thoroughly organize their calling.